

**Y Gwir Anrh/Rt Hon Mark Drakeford AS/MS**  
**Prif Weinidog Cymru/First Minister of Wales**



Llyr Gruffydd MS  
Chair, Climate Change, Environment  
and Infrastructure Committee

**Llywodraeth Cymru**  
**Welsh Government**

18 July 2022

Dear Llyr,

I am writing in response to your letter of 1 July 2022 about the 2022/2023 legislative statement and a Bill on environmental governance.

Our Programme for Government puts the climate and nature emergencies central to all of our work. As outlined during my legislative statement of 5 July, the Welsh Government is bringing forward a number of important pieces of legislation over the coming year aimed at creating a greener Wales. These include a Bill to ban or restrict the sale of some of the most commonly littered single-use plastics in Wales; a clean air Bill; an agriculture Bill to reform the way our farming communities are supported in the future; and a Bill on coal tip safety.

This Government is committed to upholding EU environmental standards. Working towards the establishment of an environmental governance body is part of our Programme for Government and the Cooperation Agreement between the Welsh Government and Plaid Cymru and we are committed to bringing forward legislation on this important issue during this Senedd term. In the meantime, the Interim Environmental Protection Assessor for Wales (IEPAW) will continue her valuable work until legislation is brought forward to create a permanent body.

Since its formation, the IEPAW has been constantly reviewing and improving its processes in order to strengthen the interim arrangements. This has included the introduction of a new process for scoping submissions, the development of prioritisation principles, the publication of a pro-forma to ensure the right information is received at the outset, and the creation of an infographic setting out the different environmental regulators operating in Wales. While these interim arrangements are in place, the IEPAW and Welsh Government will continue to consider what more can be done to improve their effectiveness and to ensure that the Interim Assessor has the resources she needs to carry out her role.

Yours sincerely,

**MARK DRAKEFORD**

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.